
The Task Force



The North/ Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for Individuals with Mental Illness

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July, 2010

Dear Fellow Northwest Suburban Resident,

We are writing to tell you about an urgent need in our community and inviting you to be a part of the solution. Because of the stigma attached to mental illness, many people are unaware of how common it is. According to the National Institutes of Mental Health, between 5 and 7% of the adult population has some type of serious and persistent mental illness.

Many of these people live completely independently and no one but their family and physician is aware of their illness. Others live at home with aging parents, and many need additional support which might range from permanent supportive housing to day treatment or inpatient programs at area community health centers or hospitals. But all too often this additional support is unavailable.

As members of this community, we feel that we must help provide better answers for our children and our neighbors who are living with mental illness. We must provide more options – safe places for service delivery and for quality stable housing. We cannot reasonably expect grown adults with mental illness to live with aging parents forever or to wander the streets, homeless, simply because they have no other option.

A recently market study confirmed our belief that there are thousands of area residents in need of affordable apartments and wrap around social services. Permanent supportive housing is the accepted and proven model across the United States for providing stable housing to people living with mental illness who are currently inappropriately housed or at risk of homelessness.

We hope you will join us in discussing the ways we can improve our community and the needs of our friends and neighbors living with mental illnesses.

In the coming months we will be coordinating community meetings about mental illness, mental health services and housing options, including the revised proposal for permanent supportive housing at 120 E. Boeger Road in Arlington Heights. If you would like to be a part of this discussion, please email or call the number below to be placed on a list of interested parties, and we will contact you with information about the time and place of these meetings.

NWcommunityneeds@gmail.com
773-777-8304

Sincerely,

Hugh Brady
Co- President

Mary Lou Lowry
Vice-President

The North/Northwest Suburban Task Force on Supportive Housing for
Individuals with Mental Illness is a 501(c) (3) non-profit.
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